

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A question answering system in which a first knowledge database including a knowledge source of a first language, and a second knowledge database including a knowledge source of a second language are used to obtain an answer to a question inputted in the first language by a user. A first acquisition unit retrieves, from the first knowledge database, a first prospective answer of the first language to the question. A first translation unit translates the question into the second language. A second acquisition unit retrieves, from the second knowledge database, a second prospective answer of the second language to the question translated into the second language. A second translation unit translates the second prospective answer of the second language into the first language. A processing unit ranks the first prospective answer in conjunction with a translation result of the second prospective answer.